

# AETC News Clips



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27, 28 + 29 Oct 01

## Mercy missions have spirits flying high at Ramstein

U.S. airmen and soldiers load millions of rations for the starving in Afghanistan.

By SIG CHRISTENSON  
EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Many soldiers and airmen working here on America's humanitarian mission have heard the stories.

Reports of Afghan bazaar merchants selling packets of U.S. rations dropped from Ramstein-based C-17s. Tales of Afghans, unfamiliar with Americanized products such as peanut butter and jelly, feeding the food to their donkeys.

Still, Americans in uniform at Ramstein — the heart of peacetime Air Force

operations in Europe for the past several years — remain undeterred.

This week, the American military's humanitarian aid mission will mark more than 1 million rations dropped over famine-ravaged Afghanistan since the U.S.-led airstrikes against terrorist networks and the ruling Taliban began Oct. 7. Pride over the milestone of mercy is evident among the young airmen and soldiers working around the clock on the mission.

"They're starving," said Tech. Sgt. Benito, a C-17 aircrewman. "If they need help, we go ahead and help them. That's always been us," he said of himself and other Americans.

Air Force officials are asking the media not to use the last names of Benito and other flight crew members for

See AT RAMSTEIN/10A

security reasons.

Such exuberance and idealism are pervasive at Ramstein, once a fighter base.

Everyone — from the soldiers and airmen packing the food in a large base warehouse to the seven-member crews making the arduous and risky 14-hour drop missions to Afghanistan — shares the sense that their efforts will save thousands from dying.

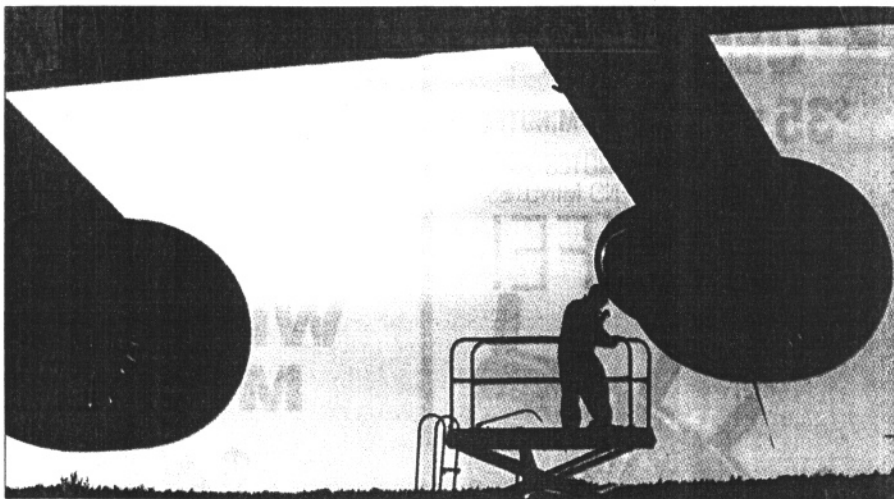
"I'm doing something for them, helping them out," said Staff Sgt. Tammy Boedges, who left Pope AFB in Fayetteville, N.C., a week ago and will mark her 30th birthday Monday at the warehouse.

Although tensions remain high throughout the region, no one at Ramstein has questioned the humanitarian effort — designed to show hungry Afghan people the fight is against terrorism, not civilians.

Despite this boundless optimism among Ramstein personnel, there's fear of another terrorist attack against the United States.

Troops at the west gate carry loaded M-16 rifles and use large, hand-held mirrors to inspect the undercarriages of cars and trucks for bombs. Down the road, an airman in a Humvee trains his M-60 machine gun on passing motorists.

Patrols and checkpoints dot the base. A series of concrete barriers surrounds the 86th Air Lift Wing headquarters, separating the two-story stucco building from a street, parking lot and flightline. Anyone entering the building meets an airman on guard, combat helmet strapped on and rifle in hand.



JOHN DAVENPORT/STAFF

An Air Force mechanic examines a jet engine Friday at Ramstein Air Base, where maintenance crews are held in as high regard as those who fly the giant planes.

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# AT Ramstein... cont'd

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"The barriers themselves are just a very small part of it," said Ramstein's top enlisted man, Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, who works in the headquarters. "Those are positive things, and it's kind of a reminder as people drive by and walk by and see the barriers and say, 'Hey, this is real. Keep your guard up and pay attention.'"

Ramstein has become the focal point for U.S. Air Force operations in Europe as the Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt edges toward closure in 2005.

Ramstein supports peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and sends 10 flights a day to Norway, Greece, Egypt and other nations, said Col. Ray Phillips, the 86th Airlift Wing's operations group chief.

Ironically, while the area boasts the largest community of Americans in Europe, few living off base fly the Stars and Stripes. The reason, said military stay-at-home mom Tara Allman, is "you don't want to draw attention that you're an American."

Allman and others say that despite their allegiance, they also sense their pain over the Sept. 11 attacks may have been dulled by the isolation that comes with being separated from the United States by an ocean and six time zones.

"(America is) an island nation and never thought that we would have our cities and states invaded," said Phillips, a Denver native. "And now that that's happened, that has created a

greater shock for the people within the country than it has, I think, on the people here."

For Allman and her family, faith has filled the vacuum. While her two young children are in school, she attends a weekly Bible study class and is president of the parent-teacher association.

Her husband, Maj. Jon Allman, is a pilot with a C-9 Nightingale air ambulance on a mission, but she doesn't know where he's assigned.

"We spend a lot of time Thursday praying for the president, his family members, the spouses that were deployed and for the families," said Allman, 35, a former teacher at Walzem Elementary School in San Antonio.

Back on the base, those in uniform put in long hours and, in some cases, have been moved from their regular jobs to sentry duty.

Staff Sgt. Robert Tatterson, a radio maintenance technician from Fairmont, W.Va., pulls a 4 a.m.-to-2 p.m. shift but accepts it as his duty.

Working a short walk away from 46 votive candles fashioned in the shape of a heart at the base's west gate, Airman 1st Class Timothy Herrera sees his job as a labor of love.

"When you see a little kid come up to you and tell you, 'Thanks for keeping me safe,'" said Herrera, a 21-year-old Chicago native, "you actually feel like you're accomplishing something."

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# A+ RAMSTEIN. Cont'd

## Ramstein

- Headquarters of United States Air Force Europe (USAFE)
- Headquarters of NATO's Allied Air Forces Central Europe since 1974
- USAFE comprised of 3rd and 16th Air Forces, three fighter wings, one airlift wing, one multi-mission wing and one air refueling wing
- General Gregory S. Martin commander of USAFE and NATO's Allied Air Forces North
- 35,000 active-duty, reserve and civilian employees assigned to USAFE
- Largest air base in Europe



- 1973: Headquarters transferred to Ramstein from Lindsey Air Station in Wiesbaden, West Germany
- 1974: Becomes headquarters of NATO's Allied Air Forces Central Europe
- 1991: Deployed 180 aircraft to Operation Desert Storm
- 1998: Three Italian jets collide during air show, killing at least 50 and injuring over 500 people in the worst air show disaster in history
- 1999: Launching point of airstrikes against Kosovo
- 2001: Deploys C-17 cargo planes to drop vegetarian ready-to-eat food packets in Afghanistan

Compiled by News Researcher Michael Knoop

Source: www.af.mil, Periscope, NPR, AP

ROBERT ZAVALA/STAFF

## Express-News team in Germany

Sig Christenson has been the military writer for the San Antonio Express-News since 1997. He began his journalism career as a writer and associate producer with KPRC-TV, the NBC affiliate in his hometown of Houston. He later worked at newspapers in Corpus Christi, Tulsa, Okla., Temple and Jacksonville, Fla. Christenson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston.



John Davenport is a native Texan who has worked for the San Antonio Express-News for 14 years. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. In his career with the Express-News and the Houston Chronicle, Davenport has covered stories in Mexico, including the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, in addition to stories in Taiwan, Bosnia, Germany, Honduras and Panama.



Davenport has covered stories in Mexico, including the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, in addition to stories in Taiwan, Bosnia, Germany, Honduras and Panama.



Sgt. Robert Tatterson uses a mirror Friday to check the undercarriage of a truck at the entrance of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where security is tight.

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# At Ramstein,

## U.S. mounts aid missions for Afghans



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Tara Allman shares a light moment with her daughter, Kylie, 6, while picking her up from a kindergarten school. Allman, 38, is a teacher.

PHOTOS BY JOHN DAVENPORT/STAFF  
Elementary School in San Antonio before going overseas. Her husband, Jon, is a C-9

# Reservist call-up thins SAPD ranks

Thirty-seven police  
officers are summoned  
to military duty.

BY KARISA KING

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

As tens of thousands of military reservists head to war, 37 San Antonio police officers are taking up posts as soldiers, posing a potential strain on the department at a time when it has been hit hard by a surge of retirements.

Although police officials say the impact so far has been slight, the call-up has blunted the benefits of the department's

contentious new staffing plan, which shuttles additional officers to the streets by pulling them from other assignments.

"By the time this is all done, we may not gain anything," said police Deputy Chief Tyrone Powers, who has overseen the return to patrol duties of 61 officers, many of whom are being removed from a popular community policing program.

"Part of the patrol redeployment was to be able to go out and attack some of the specific crimes in the neighborhoods, and we may wind up just holding our own."

The new strategy still will boost the patrol ranks to their

See RESERVIST/4B



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# Reservist call-up thins SAPD ranks

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highest total ever, Powers said. But the number of reservists summoned to military duty increases daily and could rise to as many as 138, a loss that would force administrators to cover some shifts by paying officers overtime.

The transfers, which went into effect Friday and are aimed at a projected increase in crime, have not softened criticism from police union officials who contend that the plan papers over a critical staffing shortage.

"They know they have a manpower problem now, and they know it's big time. They just don't want to agree with me and admit to the public that they have a problem," said Ronnie Welch, president of the San Antonio Police Officers Association.

The call-up of reservists comes as the department is bracing for an exodus of 80 to 100 officers retiring next year, more than twice the total last year and a record high.

A new pension law that allows officers to take home a larger cut of their monthly salaries and an increase in pension fund benefits is luring those officers away from the department.

"What happens come January, when more retirements take place and more reservists get called up? They're playing a shell game," Welch said.

He also worries that if officers begin to pick up overtime shifts — a step the department has yet to take — the workload will wear on the ranks.



*"What happens come January when more retirements*

*take place and more reservists get called up?"*

**RONNIE WELCH**

president of the San Antonio Police Officers Association

It is impossible to know, however, how many more reservists will leave or how long they will end up serving. Federal law allows the military to call on its reservists for up to two years. President Bush has sanctioned calling up 50,000 reservists in response to the Sept. 11 attacks, with about 35,000 so far joining the war on terrorism.

For a few police officers, the military deployment may not mean leaving home. Police Sgt. Joe Salvaggio, who works at the city's West Side substation, reported to his reserve post at Randolph AFB the afternoon of the attacks, but has remained here ever since.

"Right now I haven't taken that much time off from the Police Department," Salvaggio said last week at the base where he is a chief master sergeant. "I'm working weekends at the Police Department and just taking a couple days off during the week."

Although it has meant 60-

hour weeks for Salvaggio, he does it gladly to boost his military pay and ease any strain on his fellow police officers. He is among a handful who have continued working their police jobs part time while actively serving on local military bases.

"It's extremely helpful to us if we can come in and make a few extra dollars," he said. "There's also a sense of loyalty to both sides. We don't want to leave the city short, either."

Police officers called to active duty can choose to supplement their often leaner military paychecks by using their paid annual leave, vacation, holiday and sick days from the department while also retaining their benefits, Deputy Chief Powers said. When those days are drained, officers also can draw from a pool of vacation days donated by fellow officers.

City officials are considering creating a similar pool for other municipal employees called to military duty, Assistant City Manager Travis Bishop said. Aside from police, nine city workers, four firefighters and one paramedic have left their jobs for military duty, officials said.

Of the 114 reservists at the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, 13 deputies have left so far, records show. And at the Texas Department of Public Safety, spokesman Tom Vinger said 25 officers around the state are working military jobs.

Salvaggio, the police sergeant working at Randolph AFB, said it's little wonder that law enforcement agencies are absorbing much of the recall.

"It's the very nature of someone who is inclined to serve, whether it's the Police Department or the military," he said. "We all have that driving desire to serve not only the people of the city, but also the people of our country."

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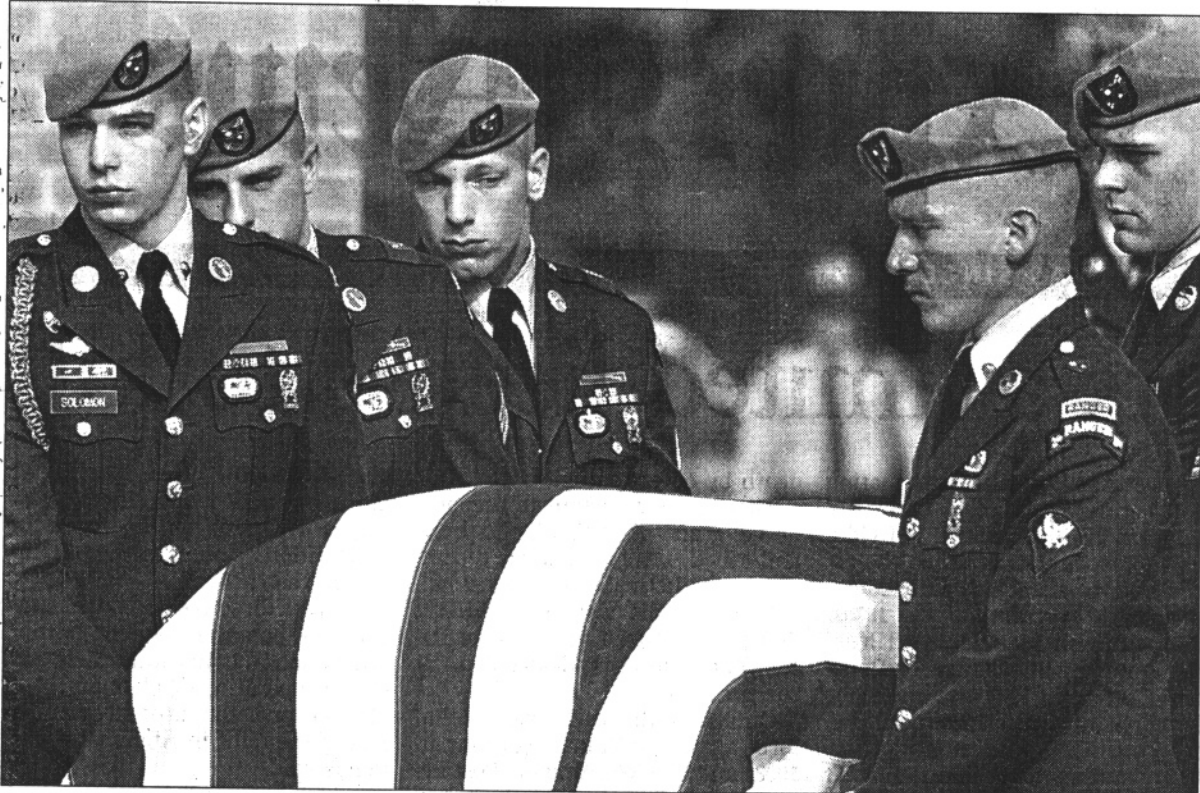


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## NEWS SUMMARY



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SAD DUTY:** Members of Bravo Company of the 2nd Ranger Battalion from Fort Lewis, Wash., carry a casket bearing the body of Spc. Jonn J. Edmunds at a memorial service Saturday in Cheyenne, Wyo. See story on Page 18A.



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# Friends, family honor Ranger

## Death came in support of raid

BY MEAD GRUVER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Friends and relatives gathered Saturday at a gymnasium decked with flags, wreaths and flowers to honor one of the two Army Rangers killed in a helicopter crash in Pakistan.



EDMUNDS

Spc. Jonn Edmunds, 20, died Oct. 19 in a crash that occurred during support for a special forces raid in Afghanistan.

"It's really sad what happened, but he was doing what he wanted to do," Amanda Schroeder, a friend of Edmunds' since seventh grade, said as tears welled in her eyes.

Uniforms from several branches of the armed forces colored the crowd of about 400.

Staff Sgt. William Bader, Edmunds' former squad leader, said he remembered riding with Edmunds in a helicopter to a live-fire exercise. On the ride back, all of Edmunds' comrades looked tired and relieved.

Edmunds, however, "still had that intense look on his face," Bader said. "This is how I choose to remember Jonn."

The Rev. Janet Forbes, of the First United Methodist Church in Cheyenne, said Edmunds left a written message for his wife of two years, Anne, before he left for Operation Enduring Free-

dom.

"Anne, I will be OK," the message read. "I am going to come back to you. I love you and think about you all the time."

Security at the service was tight; officers patrolled the area, and some surrounding streets were closed.

The service culminated with a rifle salute by fellow Rangers just outside the building. A few minutes later, six Rangers carried the flag-draped casket from the building.

Edmunds and Pfc. Kristofer Stonesifer were the first combat-related deaths in the U.S. war on terrorism.

A service for Stonesifer, 28, was held Friday in Plumsteadville, Pa.

"You think Cheyenne is really isolated and it's not going to hit us. It just goes to show it can hit anywhere," said Debby Schutt, who wore a Navy sweat shirt for Saturday's funeral in the school district's Storey Gymnasium.

Schutt's late husband was in the Navy; her son served aboard the USS Nimitz during the Persian Gulf War, and her granddaughter recently enlisted in the Navy.

"I just have a lot of faith that the military is coming together to support the Americans," she said, fighting back tears. "I think that sometimes civilians take the military for granted. I'm just here to give support."

Gov. Jim Geringer had ordered flags flown at half-staff at state buildings Saturday.



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# Bush hails new terror law

## President calls it essential to deal with 'evil ones'

By GARY MARTIN

EXPRESS-NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed into law an anti-terrorism bill Friday that gives law enforcement sweeping new powers to eavesdrop on suspected terrorists, and triples the number of federal agents along the U.S.-Canadian border.

"This legislation is essential not only to pursuing and punishing terrorists, but also preventing more atrocities in the hands of the evil ones," Bush said at a White House East Room ceremony.

Less than two months after the Sept. 11 attacks, lawmakers rushed to cobble together the legislation that expands law enforcement power.

It was passed overwhelmingly by the House and Senate during a week that saw congressional office buildings closed due to an anthrax scare that Bush called terror "attacks through our postal service."

"These terrorists must be pursued, they must be defeated and they must be brought to justice," Bush said to the applause from postal workers, senators and House members who attended the signing ceremony.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, said the new law doesn't mean Americans never again will be subjected to a terror attack.

"But it will increase the risks to terrorists and therefore hopefully deter them. It is going to reduce our vulnerability," Smith, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, said after the ceremony.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said the Justice Department would begin immediately to use the new law enforcement powers granted under the legislation to bolster investigation and intelligence efforts under way.

Lawmakers concerned about the erosion of civil liberties curtailed many of the powers originally sought by the Bush administration.

A provision that will require a judge to monitor e-mail surveillance was tucked into the bill by House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Flower Mound.

Armey said the provision would help reassure the public "that these new powers will not be misused."

Despite the tinkering with the legislation, critics say the new law still is an infringement on civil liberties.

"We are giving up the very freedoms we are trying to protect in this process," said San Antonio lawyer Gerald Goldstein, a past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

"The average American loses in the process, because it is his or her rights being given up, a loss of privacy, with very little to show for it," he said.

Goldstein represented a Saudi Arabian doctor, Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi of San Antonio, who was grabbed by the FBI, spirited to New York and questioned for days following Sept. 11.

Al-Hazmi was released after investigators determined he had nothing to do with the terrorists.

Critics of the terrorism bill said the new law could result in the corralling of innocent Middle Easterners and Arab American citizens who come under the suspicions of law enforcement.

"It lends itself to the worst sort of ethnic profiling," Goldstein said.

A four-year cap on questionable provisions in the bill helped garner support of Hispanic and other minority lawmakers, said Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Also curtailed was the amount of time federal authorities can hold a suspect under immigration laws, a limit of seven days before charges must be filed or a hearing held.

"Even with my background in law enforcement, I do not feel comfortable giving agencies the power to put someone in jail and keeping them there indefinitely," said Reyes, a former Border Patrol sector chief in El Paso and McAllen.

Bush addressed lawmakers' sensitivity to the civil liberties issue during the ceremony.

"Today, we take an essential step in defeating terrorism, while protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans," the president said.

The bill also triples the number of Customs Service and Border Patrol agents for the U.S.-Canada border.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is transferring 110 Border Patrol agents from the Southwest border to temporarily help bolster the limited manpower on the Canadian border, said Nicole Chulick, an INS spokeswoman in Washington.

"It's a temporary deployment

to help at the points of entry," Chulick said.

The bill increased to 5,319 from 1,773 Customs Service agents to work the 4,000-mile U.S. border with Canada, and an increase to 900 from 300 Border Patrol agents, Smith said.

"If anything, our northern border is the most porous border we have," Smith said. "There are still a number of rural crossing points that are not staffed between midnight and 8 a.m. You just move an orange cone and drive across."

Lawmakers also stiffened money-laundering laws as the U.S. tries to dry up funding to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, identified by Bush as the mastermind and organization that carried out the Sept. 11 attacks.

FBI and domestic law enforcement agencies are granted roving wiretaps, allowing agents to monitor conversations on various telephones used by suspected terrorists.

"The existing law was written in an era of rotary telephones," Bush said, adding that the new law "will allow surveillance of all communications used by terrorists, including e-mails, the Internet and cell phones."

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## Collecting evidence

Highlights of the anti-terror bill signed into law by the president:

Gives more leeway to wiretap phones.

Lets investigators track e-mail and Internet connections.

Allows secret searches of terror suspects' property.

Enhances the ability of federal agencies to share data.

Includes legislation to fight international money laundering.

Increases terror-related penalties.

Has a Dec. 31, 2005, expiration date for wiretapping and surveillance powers.

Source: Wire reports



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Express-News: Military

## GI housing problems hit home

By Bill Baskervill

Associated Press

Web Posted : 10/28/2001 12:00 AM

Many U.S. military families living in housing provided by the armed services have a beef with their landlord. Long-neglected upkeep is a nagging, daily aggravation — and policymakers and even commanders say it also lowers morale and hurts re-enlistment.

At Fort Story in Virginia, termite damage went unattended so long at the home of the top enlisted man, Sgt. Maj. Jim Moors, that the house was condemned. All other housing on the post is substandard, the service acknowledges.

\* Ungrounded wiring, found throughout New Mexico's Kirtland AFB, was blamed when an airman's television "blew up," housing director Elaina Day said. Antiquated electrical systems at many bases increase the chance of fire and shock.

At Fort Bragg, N.C., Lucy Thomas and her neighbor, Sharon Carr, both soldiers' wives, are fed up with plumbing problems.

Thomas' ceiling has collapsed three times because of leaking pipes. "I've had three floods," she said. The toilet in Carr's cramped townhouse has overflowed repeatedly, and sewage routinely percolates to the surface in the front yard.

"I've lived in public housing, and this is worse," Carr said. "It's like we are nobody."

Across the nation's military installations, the complaints are the same. Ceilings sag, and floors buckle. Lead-based paint crumbles where soldiers' children play and wallboard paste laced with asbestos lies exposed. Patched roofs and neglected pipes leak. Septic systems overflow.

"Inadequate" is the term applied by the services themselves to two-thirds of the 300,000 family homes owned or leased by the United States military worldwide.

That means they're too small or have major problems with plumbing, electrical systems, air conditioning, termites, rot or mold.

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section to online editor  
Crystal Coleman.

Retired Maj. Gen. Ray Smith, commander of the Marine Corps' Camp Lejeune, N.C., through July 1999, called himself the region's "biggest slumlord" because of decaying, 50-year-old base housing.

Military brass worry about the effect that today's poor housing — a legacy of 200 years of neglect — could have on war-fighting ability as the members of a second generation of professional soldiers decide if they should remain in the service.

"It has a direct relationship to recruitment and retention," said Raymond Dubois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment.

President Bush and Congress have spelled out plans to improve troops' housing, good news for the services which reported in September that recruitment remains a major challenge, even though they met goals for the past two years. Re-enlistment rates dropped during the 1990s.

"It's morally wrong to ask people who are risking their lives for the country to live in housing that the rest of us would be embarrassed to call home," said Rep. Chet Edwards, a member of the House Appropriations military construction subcommittee.

10/28/2001

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Express-News: Military

## Order for jets is jobs for Texas

By Suzanne Gamboa

Associated Press

Web Posted : 10/27/2001 12:00 AM

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon chose Lockheed Martin Corp. over Boeing Co. on Friday to build its high-tech, next-generation fighter jet, a contract that will be worth at least \$200 billion, the largest in Defense Department history.

Air Force Secretary James Roche announced Lockheed and its partners won a \$25 billion engineering and manufacturing development contract that eventually is expected to lead to the go-ahead to build 3,000 supersonic F-35 jets with radar-evading capabilities.

Lockheed, based in Bethesda, Md., said the contract would add up to 9,000 jobs at its Lockheed Martin Aeronautics division in Fort Worth, which currently employs 11,000.

Employees there burst into cheers when Lockheed was chosen.

Roche wouldn't release details of why Lockheed was picked, but said during the review process its proposal "emerged continuously as the clear winner. ... We looked at performance. There was no aesthetics, there was no beauty contest."

He applauded both companies' efforts and said they will be briefed in detail on the decision in coming weeks.

Lockheed Chairman Vance Coffman said his company would honor the trust shown by the Pentagon "by building a truly remarkable, capable and affordable multirole fighter, on schedule and on cost."

Boeing Chairman Phil Condit said the contract loss will cause the company to lower its revenue forecast by a \$1 billion next year, to about \$55 billion.

The F-35 will replace the aging fighters of the Air Force, Navy and Marines, with modifications for each branch.

It also will be used by Britain's Royal Air Force and Navy, which want 150 of the planes. Britain has committed \$2 billion toward development.

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### Comments

Send comments about this section to online editor Crystal Coleman.

The first 22 planes are to be delivered in 2008.

Lockheed and Boeing waged a long and costly advertising and lobbying campaign for the contract, which establishes Lockheed as the nation's sole fighter jet manufacturer.

Lockheed will develop the jet with Northrop Grumman Corp. and BAE Systems of Great Britain. Work will be done at facilities in 27 states and Great Britain, with major subassemblies in El Segundo, Calif., and Samlesbury, England, and final assembly at Fort Worth.

Chicago-based Boeing had predicted it would add 3,000 new jobs for its Seattle facility and another 3,000 engineering jobs and 2,000 production jobs at its St. Louis plant.

Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., said the Pentagon was wrong to place the future of America's air defenses with just one company.

Bond said he may offer legislation that would require the military to split production between the companies to keep Boeing in the fighter business.

"It would be a national security disaster if we allowed that repository of unique engineering know-how to be scattered to the four winds," Bond said.

Analysts said Boeing may be in a better position to weather the contract loss. It's developing an unmanned combat aircraft that could be highly lucrative and, unlike Lockheed, it has a commercial airline business.

It also has contracts with the Pentagon to continue building F-18s and F-22s until 2011.

Lockheed shares surged 6 percent in after-hours trading after finishing the regular session on the New York Stock Exchange at \$49.92, up \$1.02. Boeing shares fell 7 percent after finishing trading up \$1.78 to \$37.68, also on the NYSE.

The Defense Department gave Boeing and Lockheed \$660 million each in 1996 for research and development of prototypes that could take off quickly, land vertically and on carrier decks, throw off radar and provide all the high-tech cockpit gadgetry demanded by modern warfare.

The plane is designed to replace the Air Force's F-16 and A-10, the Navy's F/A-18 and the Marine Corps' AV-8B Harrier.

Boeing's test model, dubbed the X-32, is more compact than Lockheed's X-35. The X-35 achieves its short takeoffs and vertical landings with a single thruster and a lift fan at the top of the plane.

Both Boeing and Lockheed's planes for the Marines, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy can land vertically. Versions for the Air Force and Navy are designed to land conventionally.

<http://news.mysanantonio.com/story.cfm?xla=saen&xlb=340&xlc=450985&xld=180>

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Each F-35 will cost about \$40 million. The version with the ability for short takeoff and vertical landings will cost more, but less than \$50 million.

The General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, twice warned the jet could end up costing more, take longer to build and have performance problems because the technologies need more development.

The Pentagon has said its independent investigation found the technologies are adequate.

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Thursday, October 25, 2001 •

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

## Base air crackles with combat spirit

### Terrorism war alters climate at installation

BY REID FORGRAVE  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The bitter taste from a yellow smoke-bomb cloud lingered in the airmen's mouths. Ducking, they darted under low-lying barbed wire stretched over a mud-filled serpentine trench. Explosives boomed 20 feet away.

Suddenly, Little Rock Air Force Base had come to life.

"C'mon, sergeant, get under that thing!" yelled Tech Sgt. Tim Wittum, a 314th Airlift Wing loadmaster. An airman in filthy fatigues struggled to crawl under the barbed wire. "My grandmother can crawl faster than this! And she doesn't have any fingers!"

"Or teeth," muttered another, to laughter.

Charged up like a winning football team, about 60 airmen climbed, swung, and crawled through the Warrior Challenge confidence course Wednesday, designed to build confidence and teamwork among airmen who may be called to battle terrorism half a world away.

The airmen piled onto a 2 1/2-ton military truck early in the morning for the drive to a



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

**Airman 1st Class** John Rucker gets soaked but stays under the barbed wire while completing the Warrior Challenge confidence course Wednesday morning at

Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville. The 20-obstacle course was recently opened to all airmen on the base, after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

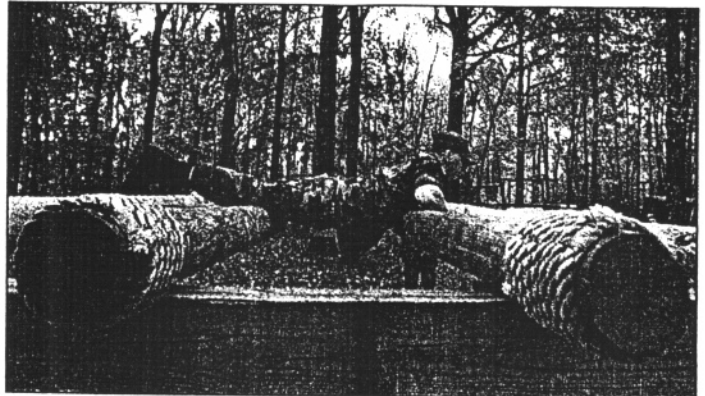
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course carved into the nearby bug-infested woods. Most were quiet and some slumped, seemingly lulled by the monotonous daily operations of the air base.

But once at the course, the airmen fell in behind Sgt. Brad Hummel, who climbed obstacles like a chimpanzee and slithered through mud like an agile alligator.

The Warrior Challenge course, which has 20 obstacles, usually isn't open to airmen on the base. But after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, senior non-commissioned officers decided to open the course to all airmen. Running the obstacle course will improve teamwork, officials said, and the refresh-

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Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

**Airman Nick Weldon** (above) crawls across the rolling log obstacle on the Warrior Challenge confidence course at Little Rock Air Force Base at Jacksonville on Wednesday morning. An airman (left) loses his balance while crossing one of the obstacles. Base officials have opened the course to all airmen to improve teamwork and raise morale.

## Base

• Continued from Page 1B  
er courses in between — on weapons, medical care, vehicle searches and communications — will bolster a wartime mindset.

"Go around the base, and you can see the difference," said Chief Master Sgt. Douglas R. Law, the base's principal enlisted adviser to the wing commander. "These guys with these dirty [uniforms] will go back to their squadron really pumped up. And it's infectious."

As the explosives rattled the ground, Air Force jogging tunes blaring from huge speakers in a Jeep livened the airmen.

Racing through the course in groups of seven, the airmen spit gritty mud and dirt they picked up while crawling through the trenches. Some of the groups roared encouragement and screamed barbs at their teammates.

Most couldn't help quoting the film *Full Metal Jacket*, calling those who missed a hurdle "Private Pyle," the inept Marine in the film, and heckled airmen with "What is your major malfunction?"

Only about 200 of the base's 4,700 airmen have traversed the course since the base opened it two weeks ago. Many squadrons already have waiting lists of airmen who want the experience.

Most of the airmen had not exercised on an obstacle course since basic training — for some as many as two decades ago — and the course is more difficult than those in basic training. Little Rock Air Force Base primarily trains C-130 air crews through the 314th Airlift Wing.

Some airmen from the base have already been deployed in the war against terrorism, but officials can't comment on how many and when and where they were deployed.

Second Lt. James Moore, a native of Wynne, said airmen are



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**Tech Sgt. Bill Okeefe** (center), teaches a refresher course in the care of an M-16 rifle during a training session Wednesday morning at Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville. Airmen who volunteer to take on the Warrior Challenge confidence course also get refresher instruction on weapons, medical care, vehicle searches and communications.

at once nervous and excited at the prospect of being sent overseas to fight terrorism.

"Going to war is part of the job, but it's still scary," said Moore, 33.

Moore said an officer with the same job as his — transportation officer — was ordered overseas to an undisclosed location last month. Moore, who has a wife in the Navy and two young children, said he figures he will probably replace him in five months.

"It's what we do for a living," said John Lewis, chief of tactics for the C-130s. He said his friend from flight school was in the first airplane that made meal drops over Afghanistan. "Any doctor going to medical school can't be scared of surgery. We can't be scared to go into war."

Before heading to the course, officers reviewed war readiness with the airmen in a sterile conference room on the base. On their chairs were guides on how to combat terrorism overseas. A heading in the guide was "Taken Hostage — You Can Survive!"

The airmen also reviewed the Laws of Armed Conflict, the rules governing international warfare.

On the base — Task Force Rock, as airmen call it — C-130s dotted the air in training missions. Some of these airmen would be in the air on a normal day, but today was special.

"It's basically a half-day retreat for these guys," said Sgt. Law, "and they get energized. It's more demanding than the average day — really boosts your confidence."

**Arizona Republic**

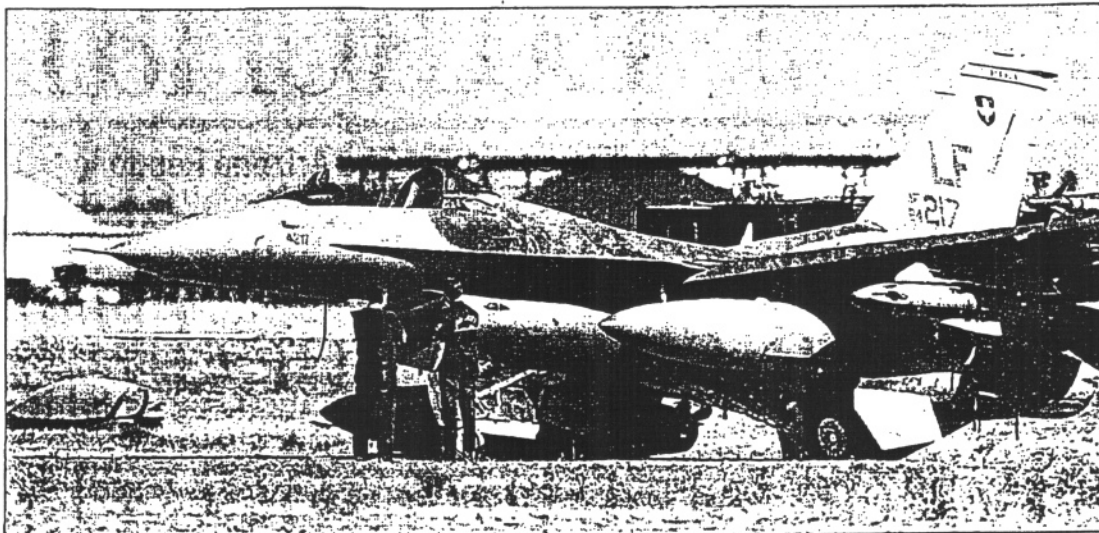
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**VALLEY & STATE / OBITUARIES**

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Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

Investigators check out an F-16 that ran off the runway at Luke Air Force Base on Thursday.

## Luke pilot ejects in F-16 landing

By David Madrid  
The Arizona Republic

A Luke Air Force Base pilot safely ejected from an F-16 jet that ran off the side of a runway Thursday.

The pilot, Maj. Yarema Sos, a student pilot assigned to the 62nd Fighter Squadron, was returning from a training mission over the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range in southwestern Arizona when he ejected while landing.

The aircraft slid off the side of the runway at about 11:26 a.m. and came to rest on base property off the western side of the runway. The base is near Glendale Avenue and Litchfield Road in the West Valley.

Sos, 38, has logged nearly 40 hours in the F-16 and has more than 3,600 flying hours.

The cause of the accident has not been determined, but a board of officers will investigate.

The last two Luke F-16 crashes occurred on July 23, 2001, and June 16, 2000. Before that, there had been nine other crashes in a 20-month period.

Luke Air Force Base has the largest fighter wing in the world with about 200 F-16s that fly about 39,000 sorties a year. Each jet fighter is worth \$19 million to \$20 million.

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# Unmanned drone crashes near

**SAFETY MEASURE:** Military personnel and civilians were restricted from the area for 24 hours due to the presence of an explosive device.

DANIEL JACKSON  
THE NEWS HERALD

An unmanned jet crashed into a wooded area near Tyndall Air Force Base Thursday morning, leading to part of U.S. 98 between the base and Mexico Beach being closed.

The area around the crash was put off limits because, a small explosive device was aboard the drone.

The OF-4 drone, a full-scale fighter-bomber flown by remote control, was supposed to be shot down over the Gulf of Mexico for target practice, but it went down by itself a short distance from the Tyndall runway.

The drone was a Vietnam era F-4E fighter that was retired after the Gulf War and salvaged for testing of missile systems. It was piloted by a computer system and a two-man operations team on the ground.

"It's a full-scale aerial target," said Lt. Col. Vincent Farrell. "It was being used for a missile test over the gulf. There was a mishap, and it crashed shortly after take off."

The road will remain closed through mid-day today because of the explosive device and fires resulting from the crash.

The device is a self-destruct charge that is used to destroy the drone if it fails to follow its flight plan.

The status of the explosive device was unknown Thursday afternoon. It was powered by a short-life battery

whose life would be drained within 24 hours.

"There is a process we follow each time this happens," White said.

"We're waiting 24 hours before we get in there to do an investigation. There were some fires associated with the crash, but they are well under control."

Tyndall officials are suggesting that motorists detour around the base using state roads 22 and 71.

White said the alternative route can delay motorists more than a half an hour, but U.S. 98 must stay closed as a

## Tyndall AFB

precaution.

"We know it's an inconvenience for people to go around," he said. "We'll open 98 as soon as we can."

The last drone crash was on Feb. 8 about a half mile from where this one crashed.

White said U.S. 98 is closed during take-off of the drones, but the road is usually reopened a short time afterward. Air Force boats also patrol the Gulf during drone flights to make sure fishermen are aware of missile testing.

"We take every precaution to ensure people's safety," he said.

TYNDALL AFB FL

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# Base task force seeks 'special' help

## ► Officials: State's military needs legislative backing

By Robert Barron  
Staff Writer

Vance Air Force Base puts an estimated \$250 million into the Enid area economy annually. If that money were lost, it would

be a major economic disaster to Enid.

For that reason, as well as to aid the nation's defense capabilities, the state Legislature will be asked to study ways to help Oklahoma's bases stay open and grow stronger.

Members of a task force to prevent closure of state bases said they need money to hire lobbyists to focus on programs to strengthen the bases.

Enid's Mike Cooper is co-chairman of Oklahoma Military Base Closure

### Prevention Task Force,

which will not just for protection but for enhancement, like the Vance Development Authority has always done.

Mike Cooper

is in place to strengthen bases by the time the

Force, which will meet next round of closures is announced, which Wednesday and could be by the end of the year, those plans to ask the improvements will not be considered, he said.

Cooper expects a closure, and realigns the issue.

"If we don't do it now, it will be a round in 2003. If there is no base-closure round in 2003, he is positive, there will be a round in 2005."

Enid's Bob Berry, and state Rep. Curt Roggöw, R-Enid, also are on the committee.

If plans are not

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# BASE

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"The focus is how the state can impact the community effort to enhance bases for a future BRAC (Base Closure and Realignment Commission)," Cooper said.

Representatives from each community with a military base gave a report about their needs at Wednesday's meeting.

Primary needs for Air Force bases in Oklahoma are protecting airspace and allowing for more consolidation of efforts through technical schools and public schools to install 21st century technology. That process could take legislative relief, Cooper said.

The Vance Development Authority already has recommended Enid City Commission pass an ordinance further protecting Vance air space from encroachment. Cooper is a member of the VDA, which is chaired by Mayor Doug Franz.

All of the communities involved realize they must have a professional consultant to help them. Most of them already have

one, Cooper said.

"It's critical to get our important needs together. The state probably will have the legislation ready for the 2002 session because of immediate upfront costs if BRAC is announced before the end of the year," he said. "We feel pretty certain there will be a BRAC round. All we can do is look at it. The president and all the service chiefs have asked for it."

Cooper thinks the announcement will be made soon.

He said if the Legislature provides any assistance it will need to come quickly, because this is the last time they will be able to impact on the issue of base closings.

"We have to do it now or the Legislature won't have time to impact these issues," he said.

The group also heard a report by Sid Hudson, vice chancellor of the Oklahoma State Board of Regents, who recommended the state raise up to \$2.7 million to upgrade all military facilities to D53 capability to allow for high-

speed data transfer to interactive video connections to universities and technical schools. That would help military bases provide more educational opportunities.

"That is a quality of life infrastructure improvement that helps all the bases in the state," Cooper said.

Enid has \$350,000 on consultants, military advisors, trips, meetings and other needs, BRAC advisers and other needs, Cooper said.

During the last BRAC round, former Gov. David Walters gave Enid and Altus, the two bases thought to be most at risk, \$100,000 from his governor's

account to help them avoid closing.

"With all these critical issues, we must do things quickly. If the announcement is made there will be a round in 2003, they already have to be done," Cooper said.

Essentially, the task force is asking the Legislature to help military facilities remain open and grow by bringing additional missions and jobs to the state.

"It's not just for protection, but for enhancement, like the Vance Development Authority has always done," he said.

State Rep. David Braddock, D-Altus and task force chairman, wants the issue before the Legislature in a special session.

Committee members say they need about \$5 million, with \$2 million for consultants and lobbyists and \$2.75 million for training replacements for the aging work force at the state's five bases.

The Legislature recessed its special session Tuesday, but has not adjourned.